MATI-197US

Appln. No.: 09/761,213

Amendment Dated January 16, 2004 Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2003

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-20 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as not reciting statutory subject matter. This ground for rejection is overcome by amending claims 1-14 to recite "a computer implemented method." With this amendment, the claims are limited to requiring a specific computer to implement the computations and, so, recite statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Accordingly, claims 1-14 are no longer subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Office Action that claims 15-20 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-14.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 16, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

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January 16, 2004

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Page 10 of 10